



## **Committee Schedule of Veterans Interest Week of March 31 – April 4, 2014**

### **Tuesday, April 1**

Committee: House Capital Investment

Chair: Rep. Alice Hausman

Room 200 State Office Building

Time: 8:15 AM

Agenda:

Presentation of DE amendment to HF2490

**HF2490** (Hausman): Governor's 2014 bonding bill and the vehicle for the Omnibus Capital Investment bill.

Committee: House State Government Finance and Veterans Affairs

Chair: Rep. Mary Murphy

Room: 5 State Office Building

Time: 2:15 PM

(Please note time and room change)

Agenda:

**HF68** (Dettmer): Honor and Remember Flag (information and limited testimony)

## **State Legislative Update for the Week of March 24 - 28, 2014**

***Monday, March 24, 2014***

### **Senate Session**

Bill introductions of veterans interest: None

### **House Session**

Bill introductions of veterans interest: None

### **Committee Hearings**

Committee: House State Government Finance and Veterans Affairs

Chair: Rep. Mary Murphy

**HF2757** (Newton): Veterans homes cost of care calculations modified. The bill was taken from the table and amended to establish a new method for calculating personal needs allowances for domiciliary residents in veterans homes. For calendar year 2015, the

allowance must be \$114 or more per month. For all years following CY15, the commissioner shall request increases in the personal needs allowances as part of the department's biennial budget request. MDVA will absorb the cost of the increased personal needs allowance for this year. The bill, as amended, was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

**HF2117** (Howes): Veteran hearing costs paid by the state. The bill was taken from the table and adopted a delete-all amendment which removed civil service boards from hearing veterans preference cases. The hearings would be held by a board of three persons, one selected by the veteran, one by the political subdivision and the third by the two selected. The governmental subdivision would pay the costs associated with the hearing except the veterans' attorneys fees. There was opposition to the bill, in its present form, so it was laid over for additional work.

Committee: House Health and Human Services Finance

Chair: Rep. Tom Huntley

**HF2556** (Newton): Veterans housing and long-term care; new residential facility moratorium exemptions provided, grants provided for veteran housing needs assessments, and money appropriated. The bill allows county agencies to enter into agreements for new group residential housing beds for a group residential housing provided operating a facility of up to 45 beds and who provides services to veterans as a board and lodging facility with supportive services or a licensed chemical dependency treatment program. Money is also appropriated in FY2015 for up to five grants to governmental or nongovernmental organizations to conduct a housing needs assessment for veterans in a community. The study must be completed by July 30, 2016. The bill passed and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

***Tuesday, March 25, 2014***

### **Committee Hearings**

Committee: House Capital Investment

Chair: Rep. Alice Hausman

**HF730** (Lesch): Minnesota Hmong-Laos veterans commemorative memorial funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated. This bill would appropriate \$500,000 in bond proceeds to complete design and construction of a memorial in the Capitol Area to honor all Hmong-Lao veterans of the war in Laos who were allied with the American forces during the Vietnam War. This appropriation is not available until at least \$150,000 has been committed to the project from nonstate funds. This was an information only hearing.

**HF82** (Erhardt): Edina; All-Veterans Memorial funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated. This bill appropriates \$225,000 from the bond proceeds for a grant to the city of Edina to design and construct the All-Veterans Memorial in Utley Park. This appropriation is not available until an equal amount has been committed to the project from nonstate sources. This was an information only hearing.

**HF2348** (Lillie): North St. Paul; military veterans memorial funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated. The bill appropriates \$100,000 from the bond proceeds for a grant to North St. Paul to design and construct a memorial to those who have served or are presently in the military and those who have died while in the line of duty. This was an informational only hearing.

Committee: Senate Health and Human Services Division

Chair: Sen. Tony Lourey

**SF1807** (Saxhaug): Former and current military members expedited and temporary licensing processing by professional licensing boards requirement. This bill directs state agencies and certain licensing boards to establish procedures to expedite licenses and to issue temporary licenses to qualified active duty military members, the spouses of active duty military members, and veterans who have left service in the prior two years with honorable general discharge status. To qualify for a temporary license, an individual must have a license in another state without history of disciplinary action and must pass a background check. State agencies and boards are authorized to adopt rules. The bill passed and was referred to the Finance Committee.

Committee: House Public Safety Finance and Policy

Chair: Rep. Michael Paymar

**HF1915** (Drazkowski): Military experience peace officer exam reciprocity provided. This bill would adjust the time in service requirements for individuals who served in the military as military police, or their equivalent, that are used to determine reciprocity for the peace officer standards and training (POST) board examination. Under current law, an individual may be allowed to take the POST exam if they satisfy any of the following:

- (1) Have served five years active service as a military law enforcement officer;
- (2) Have served three years as a military law enforcement officer, and have obtained a two-year or longer degree from an accredited post-graduate institution; or
- (3) Have five years of cumulative military and/or civilian law enforcement experience.

Under this bill, each category would be lowered to four years of cumulative experience. For example, someone with four years of military service as an MP would qualify, or someone with two years of military experience and a two year degree. The bill also incorporates “cumulative service” which would also include reserve and National Guard members. This reciprocity does not automatically grant POST certification. Instead, this reciprocity only allows a candidate to sit for the examination, and they must still meet other criteria to be POST certified. The bill passed and was referred to the Committee on Rules and Legislative Administration.

Committee: Senate Environment and Energy

Chair: Sen. John Marty

**SF2663** (Bakk): Disability-related angling and hunting licenses and special permit provisions modifications; Minnesota driver’s license and identification card designations authority. Sections of veterans interest refer to a driver’s license or identification card with a veterans designation of 100% total and permanent disability to obtain, without fee, a disabled veterans angling license. It also applies to a disabled veterans license to take

small game and to take deer with firearms or by archery. The driver's license or identification card with the disability designation applied to applications submitted on or after January 1, 2016. The bill passed and was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Public Safety.

Committee: Senate State Departments and Veterans Division

Chair: Sen. Tom Saxhaug

**SF1978** (Johnson, A.): Women veterans special license plates establishment and appropriation. The bill was amended to include motorcycle license plates, was passed and referred to the Finance Committee.

**SF2071** (Sheran): Combat wounded veterans motorcycle plates authorization. The combat wounded veterans license plate already exists. This allows for the same plate for motorcycles. The bill passed and was referred to the Finance Committee.

**SF2717** (Gazelka): Wadena veterans memorial grant bond issue and appropriations. The bill appropriates \$350,000 from the bond proceeds for a grant to the city of Wadena for construction of a Veterans Memorial in Sunnybrook Park. The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the bonding bill.

### ***Wednesday, March 26, 2014***

#### **Senate Session**

Bill introductions of Veterans interest: None

#### **House Session**

Bill introductions of Veterans interest:

##### **Marquart introduced:**

**HF3292:** A bill for an act relating to retirement; providing service credit in the Teachers Retirement Association for periods of military service; amending Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 354.543.

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Government Operations.

#### **Committee Hearings**

Committee: Senate Health, Human Services and Housing

Chair: Sen. Kathy Sheran

**SF2545** (Eaton): Cancer surveillance system modification. No committee action recorded. The bill, as amended, was referred to the Committee on Finance.

Committee: House State Government Finance and Veterans Affairs

Chair: Rep. Mary Murphy

**HF2117** (Howe): Veteran hearing costs paid by the state. A delete-all amendment provides any veteran who has been notified of the intent to discharge the veteran the option of a hearing by either a civil service board or commission or merit authority or by

a three person panel. The governmental subdivision will bear all costs associated with the hearing, except the veterans attorney fees. The bill passed and was placed on the General Register.

**HF2363** (P. Anderson): Eagle's Healing Nest grant provided, and money appropriated. (Informational only) A delete-all amendment directs the Commissioner in FY2015 to use \$100,000 from the Support Our Troops account for a grant to Eagle's Healing Nest for the purpose of assisting veterans who are reintegrating into civilian and family life. The grant money may be used to provide housing and other services for at least 40 veterans.

**HF3186** (Wills): Disabled veteran's credit and definition of disabled veteran definitions modified for the purposes of the veteran's preference. (Informational only)

Committee: House Taxes

Chair: Rep. Ann Lenczewski

**HF1948** (Murphy): Military reserve income tax subtraction extended to Active Guard Reserve income. This bill extends the current law income tax subtraction for National Guard and reserve pay to members of the Active Guard Reserve (AGR) and employees of the Department of Military Affairs. Currently, members of the National Guard and reserve are eligible to subtract the payment they receive for military service from their Minnesota income. These payments are taxed at the federal level. This includes payment for drill weekends, annual training, and other types of duty. Under current law, this subtraction is not allowed for members of the Active Guard Reserve (AGR). AGR members who are full-time members of the guard or reserve are not currently allowed to subtract this income. This bill would allow AGR members to subtract all income received for military service from their Minnesota income. Finally, this bill would also apply to individuals called to state active service by the adjutant general, and employed by the Department of Military Affairs. The bill was laid on the table for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

Committee: Senate State and Local Government

Chair: Sen. Sandra Pappas

**SF2699** (Sieben): Veterans homes cost of care calculations modifications and annual adjustments authorization. The bill was amended to reflect changes made in the House version and was recommended to pass.

**SF2700** (Hoffman, J.): Veterans' voices month establishment. The bill was recommended to pass.

Committee: Senate Transportation and Public Safety

Chair: Sen. D. Scott Dibble

**SF2663** (Bakk): Disability-related angling and hunting licenses and special permit provisions modifications; Minnesota driver's license and identification card designations authority. Sections of veterans interest refer to a driver's license or identification card with a veterans designation of 100% total and permanent disability to obtain, without fee, a disabled veterans angling license. It also applies to a disabled veterans license to take

small game and to take deer with firearms or by archery. The driver's license or identification card with the disability designation applied to applications submitted on or after January 1, 2016. The bill was recommended to pass and referred to the Finance Committee.

***Thursday, March 27, 2014***

### **Senate Session**

Bill introductions of Veterans interest: None

### **House Session**

Bill introductions of Veterans interest:

**Anderson, M. and Kresha introduced:**

**HF3304:** A bill for an act relating to capital investment; appropriating money for the Wadena Veterans Memorial; authorizing the sale and issuance of state bonds.

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on State Government Finance and Veterans Affairs

### **Committee Hearings**

Committee: House Education Finance

Chair: Rep. Paul Marquart

**HF2569** (Sawatsky): Educational opportunity for military children interstate compact adopted, and military-connected youth identifier required. This legislation is intended to help children of military families, as their parents are deployed or relocated throughout the country, make a more successful transition between school districts by creating a uniform inter-state policy affecting student: enrollment, including the transfer of education records, immunizations, and kindergarten and first grade entrance; placement, including course and educational program placement, special education services, placement flexibility, and excused absences related to deployment activities; eligibility, including enrollment and extracurricular activities; and graduation, including course waivers, exit exams, and transfers during a student's senior year of high school.

Committee: House Transportation Finance

Chair: Rep. Frank Hornstein

**HF1916** (Newton): Special women veterans license plates authorized, and money appropriated. The bill passed and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Committee: Senate State Departments and Veterans Division

Chair: Sen. Tom Saxhaug

**SF2522** (Hoffman, J.): Veterans housing and long-term care provisions modifications; new residential facility moratorium exemptions; veterans housing survey grants appropriations. The bill was laid over for inclusion in the State Departments and Veterans Budget Division Supplemental Budget.

**SF1807** (Saxhaug): Former and current military members expedited and temporary licensing processing by professional licensing boards requirement. The bill was laid over

for inclusion in the State Departments and Veterans Budget Division Supplemental Budget.

The State Departments and Veterans Division Supplemental Budget Article, as amended, and Spreadsheet were adopted and referred to the Finance Committee.

Committee: Senate Judiciary

Chair: Sen. Ron Latz

**SF2118** (Dahle): Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. The bill was amended and recommended to pass.

***Friday, March 28, 2014***

### **Senate Session**

Bill introductions of Veterans interest: None

### **House Session**

Bill introductions of Veterans interest: None

### **Committee Hearings**

Committee: Senate Health and Human Services Division

Chair: Sen. Tony Lourey

**SF2545** (Eaton): Cancer surveillance system modification.

Committee: Senate State and Local Government

Chair: Sen. Sandra Pappas

**SF1805** (Saxhaug): Veteran-owned small business certification for state procurement modification; veteran-owned small businesses contract bid preference and appropriation. This bill makes changes and clarifications to the requirements and process for certification as a veteran-owned small business that is entitled to preferences, elsewhere in statute, of up to six percent when bidding on state contracts. The bill was amended and recommended to pass.

Committee: Senate Judiciary

Chair: Sen. Ron Latz

**SF2143** (Anderson, B.): Relevant military experience modification for peace officer reciprocity examination eligibility. The bill was amended and recommended to pass.